

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF AMESBURY,  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1876.

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HAVERHILL:  
C. C. MORSE & SON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.  
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R E P O R T

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF AMESBURY.

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EXPENSES AT ALMSHOUSE AND FARM.

Paid	Stewart Noyes & Co., flour,	\$70 00
	E. A Childs, dry goods,	41 91
	F. Emerson, hen house,	100 00
	H. S. Dearborn, medical attendance,	17 25
	F. E. Hodge, weather strips,	3 00
	L. J. Currier, nursing,	5 00
	J. I. Byam, shoes,	5 65
	O S. Bailey, freight on flour,	2 70
	A. Wilde, drawing sash,	11 75
	Thurston & Coleman, shingles,	31 88
	Charles Wing, tin ware, &c ,	9 41
	Newell Boyd, shingles,	25 00
	Wm. D. Bartlett & Son, stoves and fixtures,	43 45

Paid E. M. Morse, paints and oils,	71 90
W. A. Woodman, South Hampton tax,	23 04
Dennett & Stearns, paint and brush,	2 65
Herman Livingston, clothing,	84 70
Gustavus Cammett, windows and glass,	9 66
F. W. Merrill, medicines,	5 75
J. Morrill & Son, Groceries,	162 85
Superintendent balance on salary to March 1, 1876,	387 11
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	\$1114 66

Whole number of inmates exclusive of Superintendent's family, 22. Average number, 16.

Whole number of weeks including Superintendent's family, 960. Cost of each person per week, \$1.90

The items on which the cost is reckoned are:—

Bills paid by Selectmen's orders	\$727 55
“ “ by Superintendent,	993 67
Superintendent's salary,	400 00
Interest on Town Farm,	360 00
Stock and produce on hand less than last year,	351 91
	<hr/>
	\$2833 13

*Cr.*

By labor and sales from Town Farm,	1006 56
Balance cost of maintaining the poor,	<hr/>
	\$1826 57

#### STOCK AND PRODUCE AT THE TOWN FARM FEBRUARY 10, 1876.

8 Cows,	\$360 00
6 Sheep,	50 00
2 Horses,	100 00
1 Hog,	60 00
3 Shoats,	55 00
42 Fowls,	25 00
1 Set Double Harness,	20 00
1 Single Harness,	10 00

1 Pung Sleigh,	10 00
1 Two-horse Sled,	15 00
1 Ox Sled,	5 00
1 Wagon,	25 00
1 Horse Cart,	30 00
1 Two-horse Wagon,	50 00
15 tons English Hay,	270 00
1½ " Clover "	18 00
1 " Straw,	10 00
3 M Lumber,	30 00
77 Cords Wood,	212 00
2 bushels Corn,	2 00
27 " Barley,	25 00
2 " Rye Meal,	2 50
¾ " Beans,	1 50
½ " Peas,	1 00
Lot Grass Seed,	1 00
40 lbs. Wool,	20 00
50 " Lead Pipe,	4 00
3 bushels Ashes,	1 00
31 Flour barrels,	3 00
1 Grindstone,	5 00
1 barrel Pickles,	5 00
Lot Shingles,	2 00
¾ barrel Flour,	6 75
375 bushels Potatoes,	150 00
5 " Parsnips,	4 00
½ " Turnips,	30
3 " Beets,	2 50
1½ barrels Soft Soap,	7 00
3-tons Coal,	27 00
40 lbs. White Lead,	4 40
5 gallons Linseed Oil,	3 50
1 bushel Salt,	75
125 lbs. Pork,	18 75



85 lbs. Shoulders,	12 00
70 " Butter,	24 50
25 " Salt Fish,	1 25
112 " Soap,	6 72
½ barrel Crackers,	1 50
12 lbs. Tobacco,	6 00
Lot Sugar,	3 00
2 gallons Vinegar,	70
4 dozen Eggs,	1 00
Lot Lard,	3 00
2 barrels Cider,	10 00
4 Cider barrels,	4 00
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	\$1727 62

The following bill was presented to Thomas J. Clark, administrator of the estate of Nathan W. Gordon, July 17, 1875.

AMESBURY, July 1, 1875.

Estate of Nathan W. Gordon,

To the Town of Amesbury, Dr.

1862. To board of Sarah C. Gordon, wife of Nathan W. Gordon, at the Insane Asylum for the County of Essex, at Ipswich, from July 23, to December 31, 1862, 23 weeks, 1 day,

a \$2 25 \$52 07

To clothing 7 50

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59 57

To board of Sarah C. Gordon, wife of Nathan W. Gordon, at the Almshouse 20 weeks, ending December 26, 1864, at \$1.52 \$30 40

BOARD OF SARAH C. GORDON,

29 weeks ending March 1, 1866 a 1.22 35 38

11 1-2 " " May 25, a \$1.59 18 28

29 " " March 1, 1867 a 1.09 31 61



1 year ending March 1, 1868	<i>a</i> 1.57	81 64
" " " " 1869	<i>a</i> 1.22	63 44
" " " " 1870	<i>a</i> 2.40	124 80
" " " " 1871	<i>a</i> 1.44	74 88
" " " " 1872	<i>a</i> 1.62	84 24
" " " " 1873	<i>a</i> 1.50	78 00
" " " " 1874	<i>a</i> 1.50	78 00
" " " " 1875	<i>a</i> 1.47	76 44
17 1-2 weeks ending July 1, 1875	<i>a</i> 1.50	26 25
		<hr/> \$862 93

## EXPENSES OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Town of Salisbury, supplies to John Jenkins	\$3 00
State Reform School at Westborough, board of Martin Banks (1874)	8 50
George A. Grant, meals to travellers,	10 80
D. A. Titcomb & Son, wood and coal to Mrs. Rose Griffin	17 75
" Bridget Murray	2 30
" John Grogan,	8 30
" Mrs. Thos. Dunn	15 80
" Thomas Burke	8 75
" Mrs. Thornton	2 00
Gideon J. Tuxbury, board of Curtin Child	48 00
S. G. Bazin, support of Hannah Merrill	78 00
Michæl J. Connor, meals to travellers	118 20
Patrick Pendergust, coffin robe and box for John Mahoney	18 00
City of Lawrence, support of Mrs. John Laroche	4 00
Eliza M. Gibson, nursing T. Grant's family (1874)	49 00
Mary Hall " " " "	11 00
Mrs. John Dawson " " " "	6 00
Charles W. Emerson, expenses attending finding the body and burial of John Mahoney	23 00

Bridget Murray, nursing Margaret Monahan	8 00
George B. Hoyt, sexton's service burial of John Mahoney	5 00
Hardy Bros., supplies to Thomas Burke	16 75
" " " " Matthias Noon	4 00
" " " " John Grogan	2 00
" " " " William Bradley	4 00
" " " " Bridget Murray	1 25
" " " " Gideon J. Tuxbury	5 64
" " " " Margaret O'Shanghnessy	2 00
" " " " Mrs. Thos. Dunn	4 72
" " " " Patrick Daley	4 38
Salisbury Mills boarding-house, board of Margaret Monahan and Bridget Murray	31 22
Sarah A. Bucklin, nursing T. Grant's family	41 00
City of Lynn, support of John McCabe	42 12
Town of Northbridge, support of Mrs. John LaRoche	55 61
Frank E. Little, supplies to T. Grant's family	26 00
Michael J. Connor, taking I. B. Simmons to State Almshouse	6 50
Clearey & Berry, supplies to Philip Whaland	8 00
H. J. Cushing, med. att. on T. Grant's family	66 70
" " " " on Sam'l. Boothroyd's family	16 10
O. F. Seavey, med. att. on Wm. Thompson	13 75
" " consultation on Mrs. T. Grant's case	2 00
O. S. Baley, expenses in pauper cases	16 20
Estate of A. W. West, supplies to Albert Lake (1873)	1 44
J. D. Pike " to Mrs. Lee	61 00
" " " to Sam'l Boothroyd	28 00
Thos. S. McAllister, med. att. on Jacob Stone	8 00
" " " " on Margaret Monahan	8 00
L. F. Currier, meals to travellers	2 00
City of Haverhill, supplies to Mrs. John Runnels (1874)	47 75
Estate of Stephen Kendrick, sexton's services	10 00
Benj. H. Battis, wood in small-pox cases in (1872)	10 00

John A. Douglass, med. att. on Thos. Burke	25 75
William Swett, supplies to Alvin Martin	30 16
“ “ “ “ Mr. M. Currier (1874)	16 07
“ “ “ “ Mrs. M. Currier	37 04
H. G. Leslie, med. att. on “ “ “	9 00
City of Newburyport, supplies to Esther Foster	60 50
“ “ “ “ Caroline Sargent	64 25
“ “ “ “ Lucy A. Smith	97 00
“ “ Funeral expenses child of Mary Foley	5 00
John H. Bancroft, board of Thomas Bancroft	42 00
E. A. Wallace, meals to travellers	16 00
Michael J. Connor, taking Maria Lavery to State Almshouse	7 00
J. D. Pike, supplies to Philip Whaland	8 00
H. J. Cushing, med. att. on Mrs. Whaland	7 00
J. W. Briggs, supplies to Bridget Birmingham	3 00
R. H. Currier, board of Elizabeth Mann	78 00
J. H. Cleary, supplies to Philip Whaland	6 00
“ “ “ to John Jenkins	9 00
Frank E. Little, supplies to Philip Whaland,	11 00
“ “ “ John Jenkins,	3 00
Morrill Bros., supplies to Patrick Daley	10 64
“ “ “ “ Thomas Burke	70 27
“ “ “ “ William Bradley	1 00
“ “ “ “ Mrs. Thos. Dunn	5 12
“ “ “ “ Patrick Condry	27 82
“ “ “ “ Lydia Lowell	5 26
“ “ “ “ Matthias Noon	1 65
John A. Douglass, consultation in Mrs. T. Grant's case	5 00
F. Emerson, wood to Mrs. Rose Griffin	10 00
“ “ “ John Grogan	1 25
F. Emerson, wood and supplies to Mrs. Thos Dunn,	9 00
“ “ “ Bridget Murray,	2 50
“ “ “ William Bradley,	75
“ “ “ Thomas Burke,	16 87
“ “ “ Richard M. Curtis,	14 00



F. Emerson, wood and supplies to Patrick Daley,	69
“ “ “ Mrs. L. J. Currier,	5 00
“ “ “ C. Miles,	2 50
“ “ “ Lydia Lowell,	2 50
F. W. Merrill, medicines to Mrs. Thos. Dunn,	1 45
“ “ Margaret Monahan,	2 40
“ “ Jacob Stone,	4 43
E. M. Morse, supplies to Mrs. Stackpole.	10 00
G. Dennis Smith, meals to Travellers, (1874)	5 12
E. M. Morse, wood to Mrs. Patrick Lee,	2 00
“ “ Sam'l Boothroyd,	5 25
“ “ James Lawton,	5 30
“ “ Philip Whaland,	12 75
Charles W. Emerson, meals to travellers,	4 90
H. S. Dearborn, med. att. on Mrs. C. Miles,	29 00
“ “ “ Mrs. Alvin Martin, (1874)	19 00
Georgianna, Prescott, board of Nellie E. Pope,	12 00
J. L. Merrill, supplies to Samuel Boothroyd,	13 93
City Newburyport, supplies to various persons, (1874)	129 99
	<hr/>
	\$1975 64

## STATE AID.

Lavinia Sargent,	\$88 00
M. E. Dockum,	76 00
C. F. Poor,	48 00
R. A. Clark,	48 00
Lydia A. Lowell,	48 00
P. A. Brown,	48 00
Paul Giddings,	60 00
S. A. Dow,	96 00
S. E. D. Bartlett,	80 00
Geo. F. Bailey,	84 00
R. A. Kennett,	48 00
Wm F. Martin,	72 00
H. Tozier,	48 00



Ann Edwards,	48 00
L. J. Gould,	48 00
James Murphy,	60 00
J. W. Sargent,	60 00
J. Oak,	3 00
J. Handley,	18 00
T. S. Bradley,	18 00
Mrs. Joseph Sargent,	28 00
John Jenkins,	96 00
Thomas Welch,	20 00
H. C. Flanders,	48 00
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	\$1291 00

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Districts.	Surveyors.	Repairs Bridging and Railing.	Snow Paths.
No. 1	Benj. D. Kendrick,	449 90	140 97
" 1	I. D. P. Balch, (1874)		32 87
" 2	Levi T. Currier,	101 00	
" 3	Enoch Morrill,	307 03	118 50
" 3	" (1874)		8 75
" 4	Davis Mason,	198 75	34 50
" 4	David E. Currier (1874)		3 49
" 5	Daniel F. Morrill,	129 75	53 24
" 6	I. S. Nichols	407 80	29 03
" 6	John L. Merrill, (1874)		15 50
" 7	John P. Sargent,	1077 73	45 16
" 7	W. H. Blodgett, (1874)		11 25
" 8	F. W. P. Goodwin,	361 35	74 36
" 9	John C. Tucker,	101 00	21 00
" 10	Thomas B. Patten,	257 20	47 50
" 10	A. G. Crane, (1874)	37 00	9 50
" 11	Moses S. Tuxbury,	177 87	99 14
" 12	Philip J. Neal,	508 18	42 75
" 13	Sawyer Currier,	388 77	20 62

Districts.	Surveyors.	Repairs Bridging and Railing.	Snow Paths.
No. 13	A. A. Sargent, (1874).		23 25
" 14	Calvin Sargent,	82 60	13 43
" 15	Cyrus Cammett,	1108 42	94 58
" 16	J. Henry Hill,	159 90	124 40
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$5854 25	\$1063 79
			5854 25
			<hr/>
			\$6918 04
	Andrew Nichols, marking bounds River Road,		22 50
	" " survey and plan of Whitehall road,		30 00
	I. D. P. Balch assistance on survey of River and Whitehall roads,		20 00
	I. D. P. Balch, setting bound stones on River and Whitehall roads,		28 00
	I. D. P. Balch, expenses to Salem on River Road		3 00
	T. Y. Skay, bound stones River and Whitehall roads,		54 50
	O. A. Gowen, teaming bound stones on River and Whitehall roads,		9 20
	E. D. Stone, horse hire, River and Whitehall roads,		14 50
	County of Essex, plan of River road,		191 00
	O. S. Baley, expenses on River road and Rocks Bridge,		10 05
	George Sargent, building bridge,		405 00
	Bryant Shays, keeping light,		1 00
	Edmund Morrill, lumber for bridges, (1874)		29 33
	City of Haverhill, Rocks bridge, (1874)		1317 20
	Town of Salisbury, Essex Merrimack bridge,		433 10
			<hr/>
			\$9486 42

On account of a violent storm of rain on the evening of the 5th of July, that washed the roads badly, carrying away or badly damaging nearly all the culverts at the west part of the town, the Selectmen were obliged to make large extra appropriations to I. S. Nichols, John P. Sargent, F. W. P. Goodwin, Thomas B. Patten, Philip J. Neal and Sawyer Currier, Highway Surveyors in that section.

Under the authority of a vote of the town passed in 1873, the selectmen of that year applied to the County Commissioners to run out, re-locate or straighten the line of the River road. The Commissioners caused a survey and plan of that road from the Ferry to Patten's Creek to be made, and at their suggestion the Selectmen have caused stone bounds to be set at the angles, so that the line of the road may be plain to the abutters and to all other parties interested in the knowledge of it.

Notice to remove obstructions from the River road has been served upon the following abutters :

Wm. H. Rand,	Merrimack Hat Company,
Stephen Clough,	Isaiah Page,
Charles Rowell,	Wm. E. Worthen,
Joel Davis,	John H. Goodwin,
Francis L. Davis,	Mrs. Mary Bartlett,
Daniel Worthen,	William Page,
William F. M. Huntington,	Judith Colby,
Jacob C. Merrill,	Edwin Ramsden,
David Goodwin's heirs,	John Cahill,
Thomas Page,	Mrs. Lydia A. Nutter,
William Currier,	John Huntington,
William Gilday,	Samuel Cammett,
Moses Huntington,	David W. Goodwin,
Mrs. Edmund Whittier, or Edmund Whittier's heirs	

Agreeably to a petition to the Selectmen of J. Henry Hill and nineteen others, residents and abutters on the Whitehall road, setting forth "That the road in question from its commencement on Friend street to its terminal point at or near the State line, is crooked and of irregular width. That in many cases its legally established boundaries have been altered and encroached upon, so that it is difficult to ascertain its true limits.



They therefore respectfully request that your Board will run out the same as surveyed and laid out by the County Commissioners in 1839, and to establish the limits of said road by permanent bounds." The Selectmen caused a survey and plan of the Whitehall road to be made and stone bounds to be set at the angles.

Notice to remove obstructions has been served upon the following abutters :

Charles A. Burlingame,	Jason L. Todd,
Buchanan & Burlingame,	John N. Bailey,
Richard F. Briggs,	George Ainsworth,
Judith Follansbee,	Felix D. Parry,
J. Henry Hill,	Edmund K. Dewhurst,
Isaac Barnard,	Sophronia Moody,
Charles H. Jones,	
Salisbury Mills, M. D. F. Steere, Agent.	

At the annual town meeting March 1st, 1875, it was "Voted that the Selectmen obtain legal advice in regard to the town's liability to assist in maintaining the Essex Merrimack and Rocks Bridge and if advised that the same is illegal, and that the town cannot be compelled to contribute to the maintenance of them, that they be instructed to refuse payment for said purpose, and test the same in the Supreme Court."

In accordance with the instruction in said vote the Selectmen submitted the question of the legality of the proceedings of the County Commissioners in apportioning a part of the expense of maintaining and keeping in repair the Essex Merrimack and Rocks Bridges upon the town of Amesbury, and also the Constitutionality of the statute by which said town is compelled to contribute to the expense of maintaining and keeping in repair said bridges to Messrs. Ives & Lincoln, and also to J. W. Perry, of Salem, from whom we have received the following opinions :



SALEM, April 16, 1875.

We have examined the question submitted to us, which we understand to be substantially this :—

Is the provision of the Statute of 1868 ch. 309, requiring the County Commissioners “to determine and fix the relative proportions of expense for maintaining, keeping in repair, and supporting,” certain bridges specified, then to be laid out as highways, “to be borne by said County and any of the towns lying *near to*, or contiguous to said bridges, as in their judgment may be just and equitable,” obnoxious to any constitutional objections, so that the town of Amesbury can now refuse to pay the proportion of the expense of maintaining and supporting either of the two bridges across the Merrimack river, according to the terms of the decree of the County Commissioners made in July 1868?”

Perhaps we ought to say, by way of preface that Mr. Ives of our firm was consulted by the County Commissioners in 1868, in regard to the details and form of said decree, and that, so far as matters of form are concerned, it is drawn in a form suggested by him. Without much memory on the subject, he presumes that he then advised the Commissioners that they had the power to do what they did.

The first legislation on the subject of the Essex County bridges was the Statute of 1867, (ch. 296) providing for laying out the Salem Turnpike and Chelsea Bridge as a highway. This act and the subsequent act of 1868 provided for the appointment of Special Commissioners by the Supreme Court, to assess damages, and provide how they should be paid, and also apportion the expense of maintaining and supporting the new highways, not only upon Essex and Middlesex Counties, but also upon such towns and cities, whether on the line of the way or not, as they might think just and equitable.

The corporation at once applied for the appointment of

Commissioners and the County of Essex objected, upon grounds substantially like those suggested by you.

The case thus made was reported to the full Bench, and there argued in Nov. 1868, after the passage of the Statute of 1868. You will find it reported in the 100th volume of Massachusetts reports, page 282.

We are of the opinion that the decision fully covers the question submitted to us; and goes even further than is necessary for the determination of this question; and that it is there judicially determined that the proceedings of the Commissioners in regard to the Rocks Bridge, and the Essex Merrimack Bridge were authorized by the Statute, and that the Statute is constitutional.

In a subsequent case, (*Commonwealth vs. Newburyport*, 103, mass. 129.) a similar question was raised under the same Statute, and decided in favor of the validity of the law, and of the proceedings of the Commissioners.

See, also, the case of *Hingham and Quincy Bridge and Turnpike Co. vs. Norfolk*, 6 Allen, 353.

Yours very respectfully,

Ives & Lincoln.

SALEM, May 3, 1875.

*To the Selectmen of the Town of Amesbury:*

Pursuant to your request I have examined the Acts of the Legislature and the proceedings of the County Commissioners of the County of Essex by which Rocks Bridge and Essex Merrimack Bridge were laid out as public highways, and a portion of the burden of keeping in repair and maintaining said bridges was imposed on the Town of Amesbury, although neither of them was within the limits of said town or contiguous thereto.

By an act of the Legislature of 1867, chap. 296, secs., 1



and 4, the County Commissioners were authorized to lay out said Bridges as and for highways, and upon the laying out of said bridges as highways, said County Commissioners shall determine and fix the relative proportions of expense for maintaining, keeping in repair and supporting any of said bridges, and for raising the draws in said bridges, if any, to be borne by said county and any of the cities and towns lying *near to* or contiguous to said bridges, or any of them, as in their judgment may be just and equitable, which said proportion of expense so determined upon by said County Commissioners shall become obligatory upon said County and upon said cities and towns aforesaid, to pay in the manner and at the times prescribed by said County Commissioners.

By the Act of 1868, chap. 309, the same provisions were substantially reenacted. By Act of 1869, chap. 421, it was enacted that Rocks Bridge and Essex Merrimack Bridge shall be lighted, tended, maintained, repaired and kept in repair by the several cities and towns charged with that duty by the award of the County Commissioners which purported to lay them out as public highways, and in accordance with said award, until said award shall finally be set aside or sustained.

By the award of the County Commissioners, Haverhill, West Newbury and Amesbury, are to bear the expense of Rocks Bridge in equal proportions, and the town of Amesbury is to reimburse the town of Salisbury for one half of the expense of maintaining so much of Essex Merrimack Bridge as lies in Salisbury.

The proceedings of the County Commissioners in laying out said bridges appear to be legal and regular. The Proprietors of the Haverhill Toll Bridge brought a petition against the County Commissioners to set aside the laying out of the Haverhill Bridge, (which laying out was precise-

ly the same with all the bridges) on the ground that it was irregular and illegal, but the Supreme Judicial Court held the laying out to be regular and legal.

Propr's., Haverhill Bridge vs Co. Com'rs., 103 Mass 130.

The Act of the Legislature being plain that the County Commissioners may assess the support of the bridges upon the towns near to or contiguous to the bridges, and not simply upon those towns within which the bridges exist, the only question which can arise is:—

Has the Legislature power to compel towns to contribute to the support of roads and bridges outside of their own limits; that is, is the Act of the Legislature authorizing the County Commissioners to impose these burdens on towns, *constitutional*?

The constitution does not name and enumerate the powers of the Legislature in regard to the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. It has been the long standing custom of towns to maintain the roads and bridges within their own limits, but as roads and bridges are for the general convenience of the whole people, and as it may cost disproportionately more to maintain the roads and bridges in some towns than in others, the Legislature, for the purpose of equalizing the burdens of taxation, have in many cases assumed under Art. 4, chap. 2, Part II. of the Constitution, which provides that the Legislature shall have “full power and authority to make all manner of wholesome and reasonable laws as they shall judge to be for the good and welfare of this Commonwealth and for the government, and ordering thereof, and of the subjects of the same,” to distribute by general or special acts the burden of maintaining and keeping in repair expensive roads and bridges, although such roads and bridges were wholly outside of some of the towns upon which the burden was imposed. These acts have frequently come before the Courts for construction and enforcement. For instance, the burden of supporting one of the



long bridges leading into Boston was imposed upon several towns, as Brighton, Newton, Lexington, and the Act was early held to be valid and binding upon the several towns, although the bridge did not touch their territories.

Cambridge *vs.* Lexington 17 Pick. 222

Att'y. Gen. *vs.* Cambridge 16 Gray 247

Again the Legislature caused the Hingham and Quincy Bridges and Turnpike to be laid out as a public way, and the expense of supporting it to be apportioned among several towns and counties, although the Bridge and Turnpike were not within some of them, and the Act was held to be valid and binding.

Hingham and Quincy Bridge and Turnpike Corporation *vs.* County of Norfolk et al. 6 Allen 356.

Afterward, in 1870, the Legislature passed another Act in relation to the same road and bridge, releasing some of the towns from the support and imposing increased burdens upon others, and the constitutionality of this Act came distinctly before the Court, and it was determined to be constitutional, in *Scituate vs. Weymouth* 108, Mass. 130.

The Act under which Rocks Bridge and Essex Merrimack Bridge were laid out as public highways, came before the Court in the Salem Turnpike, and Chelsea Bridge Co. *vs.* Essex 100, Mass 282; the constitutionality of the Act was then fully discussed by Mr. Endicott, now a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, but the Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Act.

After an examination of these cases and the reasoning of the Court upon them, it would seem to be a profitless undertaking to question the constitutionality of the law under which the town of Amesbury is compelled to help support two bridges, which are outside of its town limits.

Yours, very truly,

J. W. PERRY.

## EXPENSE ON SEWERS AND DRAINS.

T. Dearcey and others, digging for Sewer on Main St.	\$33 94
Daniel Murphy and others, filling and labor	“ “ 21 00
William Brown, teaming,	“ “ 9 70
Asa W. Cowden, levelling dirt	“ “ 4 50
W. B. Titcomb, building sewer	“ “ 55 40
George Currier, bricks	“ “ 54 38
F. P. Currier & Co., cement	“ “ 27 50
H. O. Dearborn, building sewer on School and Friend Streets	488 18
Cyrus Cammett bal. on digging and filling School and Friend Streets	56 86
	<hr/> \$751 46

## SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

William L. Miller, teaching	\$999 97
George A. Moore	“ 540 00
S. J. Shackford	“ 105 00
E. C. Shackford	“ 90 00
Annie W. Kelley,	“ 232 50
Sophie M. Granville	“ 232 50
Susie W. Moulton	“ 232 50
Carolyn O. Spofford	“ 150 00
Emma A. Dodge	“ 232 50
Addie E. Smith	“ 232 50
M. Phena Eastman	“ 61 25
Annie D. Moulton	“ 142 50
Elizabeth R. Graves	“ 90 00
Anna Kenniston	“ 75 00
W. A. Spinney	“ 999 97
Sarah C. Moody	“ 280 00
Ella J. Morrison	“ 180 00
Mary E. Morrill	“ 232 50

Sarah A. Morrill, teaching,	135 30
Alberta K. Winslow      “	143 00
Carrie F. Worthen      “	143 00
Anna M. Gunnison      “	143 00
Susie L. Brown      “	310 00
Laura A. Haynes      “	52 50
Willet L. Titus      “	655 26
Clara E. Clifford      “	232 50
Linda E. Ladd      “	311 25
Annie E. Edwards      “	232 50
Frank Wiggin      “	1000 00
Nellie F. Worthen      “	271 25
Mary A. Tuson      “	232 50
Nellie M. Fowler      “	143 00
Hattie E. Sargent      “	143 00
Maria G. Smiley      “	143 00
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	\$9399 75

## SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

H. L. Kingsbury, fuel	\$ 4 50
Nellie F. Worthen, teaching (bill of 1874)	54 00
C. C. Morse & Son, Printing school report	72 00
C. E. Rowell, school incidentals (1874)	7 16
Herbert F. Clifford, care of school-houses	26 00
Wm. Nisbet, tinning roof of school-house	355 88
John S. Hayes, school maps and charts	71 00
J. L. Hammett, school incidentals	47 03
Merrimac Steam Job Printing Office, question slips	3 00
W. G. Shattuck, desk and inks	38 10
Harry Schofield, care of school-house	7 00
J. W. Sargent, stationery and books	24 27
Frank Brann, plan of school-house roof	10 00
Asa W. Cowden, care of school-houses and yard	45 75
Wm. L. Miller, books	5 00



Frank Wiggin, care of school-houses, books, &c.	31 47
C. G. Long, care of school-houses	19 60
Hiram J. Macomber, care of school-houses	13 15
George H. Horner, care of school-houses	17 00
Cyrus Cammett, dirt and teaming	117 55
E. N. Nickerson, repairing fence	4 97
G. W. Sargent, wood	24 75
D. A. Titcomb & Son, coal	208 00
J. Henry Hill, truant officer and setting trees in Academy yard	72 40
Willet L. Titus, school incidentals	12 32
Hannah Joyce, cleaning school-houses	18 00
Martha C. Goodwin, cleaning school-houses	9 50
O. Boardman, soap and sand	81
W. B. Titcomb, repairs	15 00
David L. D. Balch, repairs	115 80
B. L. Fifield, chairs	14 90
D. O. Quimby, books	12 00
James Winslow, charcoal	18 85
Blodgett & Davis, coal	136 98
J. W. Sargent, books	7 20
Clearey & Berry, school incidentals	2 69
George S. Prescott, windows and fence (1874)	8 74
“ “ mending windows	3 40
William Pecker, repairing fence	18 67
Thompson & Brown, school chart	8 80
Gustavus Cammett, painting roof of school-house	25 00
Clifton S. Hall, clocks	15 70
M. S. Gibbs, repairs	31 62
Wm. B. Chapman, repairs	40 89
Dennett & Stearns “	9 17
James Whittier “	7 50
Fred Sargent, care of school-houses	9 00
F. H. Bird “ “ “	9 00



Joseph Merrill, fuel, repairs and incidentals	50 43
M. C. Donahue, setting hedge on Academy lot	42 25
Charles Wing, stoves, funnel and repairs	38 09
Newell Boyd, lumber	10 82
A. Cunningham, care of school-house	12 00
Clarence Allison " " "	4 20
Thomas A. Cook " " "	15 75
W. D. Bartlett & Son, stoves, fixtures, &c.	106 30
C. L. & J. W. Allen, school fixings	7 00
E. N. Nickerson, pump at school-house	9 79
John O. Currier, truant officer	10 65
Joseph Merrill, care of school-house, repairs, &c.	29 67
W. H. B. Currier, printing for schools	6 75
J. Henry Hill, truant officer	31 70
H. G. Leslie, school incidentals	53 15
Daniel Worthen & Son, school incidentals	3 83
F. W. Merrill, school books and stationery	128 71
W. L. Titus, chemical apparatus	9 89
C. E. Rowell, ink	2 25
Wm. L. Miller, school books	4 65
W. D. Bartlett & Son, stove repairs	4 75
William Jones, blackboards	2 50
S. C. Patten, curtain fixtures	1 80
Nichols & Hall, drawing paper	4 50
A. G. Whitcomb, ink wells	7 20
Knight, Adams & Co., Bonny's French	3 15
J. W. Colby, wood	12 50
F. Emerson, "	104 50
H. Poole, glazing and painting	4 33
J. E. Ropes, incidentals	32 82
	<hr/>
	\$2587 05
Amount for teaching brought forward	9399 75
	<hr/>
	\$11986 80

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Members Atlantic Hose Company	\$313 33
“ Native Engine “	475 00
“ Merrimac “ “	395 00
“ Niagara “ “	525 00
“ Agile “ “	318 29
“ M. D. F. Steere, hook & ladder Co.	258 40
W. Everett Pearson, repairing Merrimac Engine	116 00
John A. Wiley, hose for Agile engine Co.	584 00
H. A. Hall, ulsters and caps for Merrimac Co.	34 00
A. L. Baxter, repairs on Agile engine	23 40
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	\$3042 42

## TOWN OFFICERS' PAY.

Joseph Merrill, services as town clerk and recording	\$160 46
“ “ “ “ school committee	100 00
Frank Wiggin “ “ “ “	100 00
H. G. Leslie “ “ “ “	100 00
O. S. Baley “ “ selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	350 00
E. M. Morse, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	300 00
I. D. P. Balch, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	300 00
E. M. Morse, collector's service	35 55
Bailey Sargent, treasurer, collector and constable services	476 42
O A. Gowen, constable services	18 00
	<hr/>
	1940 43

## POLICE OFFICERS' PAY.

Michael J Connor, police. Keeper of lock-up and night-watch	\$260 16
Elijah Davis, services as night-watch	34 00

L. F. Currier, services as night watch,	90 00
George A. Grant " " Police	46 89
George W. Austin services as "	25 00
P. J. Neal " " "	15 00
Page Ring " " "	20 00
E. P. Sargent " " "	25 00
S. P. Jackman " " "	25 00
George W. Bartlett " " Fish Warden	5 00
C. W. Emerson, services as Police and keeper of lock-up	75 00
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	\$621 05

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

E. N. Nickerson, voting platform,	\$6 53
T. J. King, damage to sleigh,	4 00
Geo. W. Nichols, surveying and laying out streets,	10 00
W. D. Bartlett & Son, stove for lock-up, (1874)	6 84
Ives & Lincoln, legal opinion,	40 00
Colby, Coombs & Co., advertising,	6 25
Grant & Connor, labor and material—repairs on lock-up,	10 12
J W Perry, written legal opinion,	95 00
W. H. Stanley, trucking weights and measures,	3 00
I. D. P. Balch, labor on gravel pit,	13 75
Wm. Lunt, sexton's services,	10 00
Nathaniel Lasel, gravel pit,	115 00
John Currier Jr., damage to carriage,	135 32
H. P. Robinson, storing engine,	4 00
John Neal and others, burying horse,	6 00
J. L. Fairbanks & Co., record book,	2 75
E. N. Nickerson, guide boards,	9 25
W. I. Atwood, charcoal for lock-up,	75
Thurston & Coleman, post,	2 00
Chas. Wing, supplies for lock-up,	6 97
Newell Boyd, fencing for gravel pit,	3 00



John W. Boynton, appraisal of machinery,	100 00
George H. Briggs, sheriff fees on tax case,	23 30
Elmer P. Sargent, treas. Mechanics' hall for meetings	50 00
J. R. Huntington and others, witness fees in tax case,	17 20
Estate of Stephen Kendrick, return of deaths,	14 75
Edward B. Pierce, appraisal of machinery,	55 50
George W. Cate, fees cases of Orr & Long,	5 95
Well's Express,	9 85
Mrs. S. E. Kimball, hotel expense for witnesses in tax case,	1 50
Charles Manson return of deaths,	2 25
Geo. H Briggs, insurance on school-house,	72 00
D. A. Titcomb & Son, supplies to lock-up,	6 90
Louisa Currier, land rent for lock-up,	12 00
George B. Hoyt, return of deaths,	10 75
O. S. Baley, various small bills paid,	13 90
Wm. Lunt, labor in cemetery,	8 00
Wm. H. B. Currier, printing,	128 50
James B. Morse, return of deaths,	1 25
F. W. Merrill, blank books,	3 35
E M. Morse, expenses to various places,	19 30
Chas. W. Emerson, charcoal for lock-up,	1 20
Wm. C. Binney, counsel and court fees, (1871-72-73)	62 80
J. H. Swett, seals &c., for weights and measures,	5 00
J. H. Swett, sealer of weights and measures,	40 00
D A. Titcomb & Son, wood to lock-up,	25
Bailey Sargent, insurance on school-houses,	200 00
William Cummings, horse hire on account of Norton	
robbery,	2 00
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	1358 03

#### NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

J. W. Perry, special Administrator S. Thompson's	
estate, interest,	\$180 00
Edward Rowell,	60 00

Powow River National Bank, notes and interest,	8142 53
Savings Bank, notes and interest,	30184 16
Pickering & Mosely, notes and interest,	10493 75
Joseph Merrill Adm'r. estate of Sarah Blaisdell note and interest,	1440 54
Jacob Huntington, note and interest,	325 50
John B. Barnard, " "	865 00
D. J. Poor, Cashier, " "	5 67
Mary L. Wadleigh, " "	12 00
Amelia Fozzard, " "	37 14
First National Bank, Amesbury, note	1000 00
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	\$52746 29

## CEMETERY ACCOUNTS.

## EAST END CEMETERY.

1875. *Dr.*

Received of D. A. Titcomb, Savings Bank book,	\$409 92
Dec. 25, Received of estate of Stephen Kendrick, sale of lots,	50 00
int. as per Savings Bank book to Oct. 1875,	26 30
	<hr/>
	\$486 22

1875. *Cr.*

By cash paid estate of Stephen Kendrick, for labor, fencing, road-making and lumber,	30 15
1876, Feb. 11. Paid C. L. & J. W. Allen bill of tools,	5 15
Feb. 16. Cash on hand,	70
	<hr/>
	36 00
Balance in savings Bank,	<hr/>
	\$450 22

## WEST END CEMETERY.

1876, Jan 1, To cash from last year,	375 20
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1876, Jan. Interest,	19 12
"    From sale of lots,	43 00
	<hr/>
	\$437 32
By cash paid for labor and material,	122 57
"    D. Gould, for services	8 00
	<hr/>
	130 57
	<hr/>
Balance in Savings Bank,	\$306 75

DANIEL GOULD, Treasurer.

Jan. 1, 1876.

Account of E. M. Morse, Treasurer for the year ending  
March 1, 1875.

*Dr.* E. M. Morse Treasurer and Collector.

To cash and uncollected taxes of previous years, \$7072 25  
1876, Feb. 12. *Cr.*

By cash paid to Treas. act. of taxes of	
1874 and former years collected,	3019 83
By abatements for 1872,	67 25
By " " 1873,	550 00
By " " 1874,	378 00
	<hr/>
	4015 08
	<hr/>
Uncollected taxes in hands of E. M. Morse,	\$3057 17

#### TREASURER'S ACCOUNT ENDING MARCH 1, 1876.

1875. *Dr.*

Mar. 6 Cash Received, hired of John B. Barnard,	\$1000 00
" 12. " " of Levi T. Currier, for plank,	91
" " " " Town of Salisbury, (pauper case).	2 00
Mar. 12. Cash received, Allen W. Dodge, County Treasurer, (dog money),	272 05



Mar. 29.	Cash received, hired of Powow River National Bank,	1500 00
Mar. 26.	Cash received, of City of Newburyport, acct. paupers,	57 62
May 3.	Cash received, hired of Powow River National Bank,	3500 00
May 15.	Cash Received, of City of Lynn for board of Willie Curtin,	48 00
May 15.	Cash received, hired of Powow River National Bank,	3000 00
May 25	Cash received, of City of Haverhill, small pox case,	66 44
June 5.	Cash received, for board of Wm. B. Huntington,	3 25
June 24.	Cash received, hired of Pickering & Mosely,	10 000 00
July 31.	Cash received, of City of Haverhill, (Lake small pox case,)	121 01
Aug. 1.	Cash received, hired of Jacob Huntington,	300 00
Dec. 6.	“ “ of State Treas. for corporation tax,	808 78
Dec. 6	Cash received, “ “ “ State aid account, 1873.	57 00
Dec. 6.	Cash received, “ “ “ “ “ account 1874,	1451 57
Dec. 6.	Cash received, “ “ “ on account of State paupers,	25 71
Dec. 6.	Cash received, “ “ “ “ “ National Bank tax,	947 72
Dec. 7.	Cash received, hired of First National Bank Amesbury,	1000 00
Dec. 24.	Cash received, hired on notes payable at National Bank of Mutual Redemption, Boston,	35425 00

1876,

Jan'y. 13. Cash received, of City of Newburyport, bal. on settlement of acct. of 1873,	46 48
Jan'y. 26. Cash received, State Treas. acct. of in- come of Mass. school fund,	392 04
Feb. 12. Cash received, of City of Lynn, for board of Willie Curtin, to Jan. 1, 1875,	48 00
Feb. 12. Cash received, of E. M. Morse, collected on overdue taxes,	3019 83
Feb. 12. Cash received, of O. S. Baley, trial jus- tice. (custody),	1 50
Feb. 12. Cash received, of O. S. Baley for licenses,	30 00
“ “ “ “ of school committee for apples from school house yards,	8 25
Feb. 12. Cash received, of Geo. W. Cate, trial justice, (custody),	17 50
Feb. 12 Cash received, found on body of John Ma- honey,	2 81
State, County and Town taxes for 1875,	50323 46
Additions since cast,	101 70
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	\$113 578 63

1875. *Cr.*

Nov. 1. By paid, Allen W. Dodge, Treas. County tax,	\$2926 40
By paid, Chas. Adams Jr., State Treas. State tax,	4260 00
By paid, “ “ “ “ “ “	
Bank tax,	613 93
By discount on taxes,	1640 58
By Abatements,	374 75
By Paid interest on Town Bonds,	1000 00
“ “ Selectmen's orders,	86 314 20
Uncollected taxes on hand,	16 448 77
	<hr/>
	\$113 578 63

## RECAPITULATION.

Poor in Almshouse,	1114 66
Poor out of Almshouse,	1975 64
State Aid,	1291 00
Roads and Bridges,	9486 42
Sewers and Drains,	751 46
Support of Schools,	11986 80
Fire Department,	3042 42
Town officers pay,	1940 43
Police officers pay,	621 05
Miscellaneous expenses,	1358 03
Notes and interest paid,	52746 29
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	\$86314 20

The town is indebted in the following sums, March 1, 1876.

5 per cent. Bonds,	\$20 000 00
6 per cent. ten year notes payable at National Bank of Mutual Redemption,	20 000 00
6 per cent. one year note payable at National Bank of Mutual Redemption,	5 000 00
Note payable June 24, 1876 at National Bank of Mutual Redemption,	10 000 00
John B. Barnard, note,	1000 00
Samuel Thompson, note,	6000 00
Edward Rowell, note,	1000 00
Amelia Fozzard, note,	571 50
Jacob Huntington, note,	300 00
Nancy Morse, note,	203 55
Mary L. Wadleigh, note,	200 00
Interest to March 1, 1876,	943 00
Outstanding bills estimated,	2500 00
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	\$67718 05



*Cr.*

By uncollected taxes in hands of collector for 1874	
(E. M. Morse),	\$3057 17
By uncollected taxes in hands of collector for 1875	
(Bailey Sargent),	16448 77
Due from Board of State Charities,	275 00
"    "    City of Newburyport,	60 51
"    "    David M. Tuxbury, adm., of estate of A.	
Bagley as per last year's report,	64 50
E. M. Morse, adm. of estate of Wm. Smith as per	
last year's report,	136 12
Due from Collector's bonds of 1867 and 1868,	1000 00
Due from County Treasurer, (dog money,)	254 57
Due from State Treasurer, State Aid,	1344 00
	<hr/>
	\$22 640 64

Town Debt, March 1, 1876, \$.45 077 41.

Town Debt, March 1, 1875, \$49 306 69.

    "    "    "    1, 1876, 45 077 41.

Decrease of Debt, 

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\$4 229 28.

The selectmen have changed the notes due the Savings Bank for which the town was paying interest at the rate of 7 per cent. at the commencement of the municipal year, by putting notes running ten years at the rate of 6 per cent. on the market, and for which the town received a premium of 2 per cent. amounting to \$425 00. So that the town really pays on the \$20.000 of ten year notes less than five and three-fourths per cent. interest. And on the one year note for \$5000 but five and one half per cent.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

O. S. BALEY,	} Selectmen
E. M. MORSE,	
I. D. P. BALCH,	
	of
	Amesbury.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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Agreeably to usage and in accordance with law, the School Committee would respectfully submit their Annual Report to the citizens of Amesbury.

The Committee, realizing the importance of the work entrusted to their supervision, have endeavored not only to sustain previous excellence, but to raise still higher the standard of the schools. Not simply in name, by introducing higher studies, more advanced text books, but rather by thoroughness in studies suited to the real wants of scholars, who may in future occupy various positions in life. The study of the languages has not been advised for those who after a brief period are to pass from the school to the work-

shop, store or farm, but those practical branches which will be found indispensable in such occupations. The school life of a very large majority of our youth is brief, closing at an early age and admitting as all no doubt will, the great importance of a common education, it is very apparent that the great body of the work is, and must remain in the common branches. Other classes of scholars wishing to pursue a more advanced course, in order to fit them for positions requiring more advanced literary qualifications have been abundantly provided for. Our schools are now giving instructions in nearly all of the higher studies, including the languages. No citizen need send abroad to fit his son for College, it can be thoroughly accomplished at home, has been, and we doubt not that such cases will be more common in future.

The good work has been progressing, although owing to circumstances beyond our control, less has been accomplished than was desirable. Numerous obstacles have frequently met our efforts which were not easily overcome. Hard times have pressed heavily upon the schools, causing irregularity in attendance. Inability of parents to provide clothes, has in many instances been the excuse for not sending to school. The small pittance earned by the father has rendered it necessary to press children into service in order to obtain a tolerable living. The want of sympathy between parents and school, the failure to appreciate the great privileges within their reach, and, in short, the importance of a good common school education may be reckoned among the most prominent hindrances to success in some portion of the schools. At the Mills the Monthly Reports of the teachers invariably mark the foregoing as the hindrances with which they have to contend.

A class cannot be kept together and work to advantage when every recitation finds several of its members absent.



Portions of the text, containing perhaps important items are never learned, and such deficiencies will show to great disadvantage, and at a time it may be, when the teacher is least willing. The moral right of parents to keep their children from school on light and frivolous excuses is very questionable, but it is an evil which we are obliged to meet, and one that results in evil not alone to such pupils, but the whole school.

The above are not new complaints, however, but such as have retarded the progress in past times, and must necessarily require time and effort to eradicate. But there is a brighter side to this work—a more cheering view, which is encouraging in many respects. At the beginning of the year it was decided to require a written examination of applicants for schools, and a time and place was appointed for all to appear who might wish to teach in town. Printed slips were furnished containing such questions as were deemed appropriate, the perfect standard being 100, and the lowest per cent. to be considered 75. The occasion brought together a large number of applicants, from which a sufficient number of well qualified teachers was selected. The improved condition of the schools—better discipline, more familiar and thorough instruction specially adapted to the several grades, show conclusively that the teachers have labored earnestly, realizing the responsibility of their positions. Thus among the many discouragements invariably attending the system, has been found cause for congratulation in these successful efforts for better order and greater improvement. In most sections of the town parents have sustained and assisted the committee and teachers by their sympathies and co-operation. Increased interest is indicated by the large number of visits to the schools. When parents and friends visit the schools freely we shall have, without doubt, their earnest co-operation in the work, lightening the teachers' labors and rendering their situations far more agreeable.

## PAY OF TEACHERS.

In a few instances the pay of teachers has been increased with a view to securing more efficient service, although but little variation from last year has occurred. The best possible school, even if short, has been our motto, and at the close of the year we find no occasion to change that opinion. The business prospect for the coming year is not very encouraging, and in most branches labor may be at a discount, but it is very doubtful if experienced and skilful teachers can be obtained for less than the present rates of compensation. Cheaper teachers may readily be obtained, but the town cannot afford to hire them.

## REPAIRS.

An appropriation of \$500 was made at the annual meeting, for a new roof on the High School building at the Mills, which sum was thought to be sufficient at the time. The Committee received proposals for the work and found the estimates to overrun the sum appropriated, consequently the measure was given up. Upon examination the old roof was found sound enough for tinning, which would answer a good purpose and be very much cheaper. The roof was accordingly tinned, new ventillation given so as to remove the heated air in the attic and render more comfortable the rooms. The balance was expended in raising the grade of the yard, upon which was carted several hundred loads of dirt, affording a drier and more comfortable play-ground. The dampness of the ground has long been a source of complaint and the opportunity of procuring material cheap to improve its condition was fortunate.

## ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOLS.

For special supervision the schools were assigned as follows, viz. :

To Jos. Merrill, the West Amesbury High, South Amesbury Grammar and Primary, the Mills Grammar, Intermediate, First and Second Primaries, Lion's Mouth, Pleasant Valley and Pond schools.

To H. G. Leslie the Ferry schools, Friend street schools, Mills High, Infant, Third and Fourth Primaries.

To F. Wiggin, South Amesbury High, West Amesbury Grammar, Intermediate and Primary, the Landing, Bear Hill, Birch Meadow, Highlands and Pond Hills schools.

The whole number of children in town between the ages of five and fifteen, as ascertained by the Committee was 1154, being a loss from last year of 53. The whole number attending school in Summer, was 1053, and in Winter 1064. This is a gain from last year of 22 in Summer, and 27 in Winter. When taking into consideration the fact that there has been a falling off in scholars, this shows quite an improvement in the attendance.

The average expense during the past year for each scholar in the High Schools has been \$36.

## FERRY SCHOOLS.

HIGH.—W. A. SPINNEY, TEACHER.

Under the management of one who is in every sense of the word an educator, this school has enjoyed another year of great prosperity. Nothing has occurred to mar the pleasant relations of teacher and scholars, or to interfere in any way with the steady accumulation of facts and ideas. It is always a source of much pleasure to visit this school. The room is large, well lighted and well ventilated; its walls are adorned with chromos; not cheap, tawdry affairs, but some of Prang's highest work of art purchased by the scholars themselves, a good organ, botanical charts, and wall maps, reference books



and general educational literature, serve to make it a very attractive place ; but better than all this the studious, orderly habits of the pupils, correct recitations, fine specimens of writing and drawing constantly to be seen upon the black-boards, cannot fail to give pleasure to any one interested in the results of the school room.

It has been remarked that the time devoted to drawing in our schools yielded no practical results ; but we are confident that the most skeptical would be convinced of the utility of giving some attention to this branch of study, were they to visit this school and see with what ease and facility the pupils use the crayon to illustrate the varied and complicated apparatus used in performing philosophical and chemical experiments. Whatever is presented to the eye is far more readily understood than any idea that can be conveyed by sound alone ; hence we see of what incalculable advantage it is as an aid in teaching. These results may be seen in any of our higher grade schools, and are worth the attention of persons who question the benefits to be derived from a course in free-hand drawing.

The extra attention given to writing during the year has been productive of very pleasing results. Some pupils who had fallen into careless habits and returned examinations written in a scraggly, irregular hand, have felt the force of a steady, persistent drill, and now show papers almost rivaling copper-plate in neatness of execution. In speaking of this matter we feel that it is but just to state that were we called upon to decide as to what school had made the greatest improvement in penmanship, we should be at a loss to know whether the Ferry High, Mills High, or Mills Grammar school were deserving of the greater credit.

“ *Nullu dies sine liniu,*” is the motto that greets the visitor entering this room, and the *resumi* of the year shows that, like good soldiers, the pupils have gathered around their stand-

ard, and what on its folds seemed to us but words, has proved to them an earnest reality.

GRAMMAR.—MISS S. C. MOODY, TEACHER.

This school has labored under more serious disadvantages than any other of the same grade in town. The crowded condition of the Primary school has made it necessary to transfer scholars almost every year before they were fully fitted, and as this change must needs extend through all the rooms, it has served to keep the grade of the higher departments below par, and entailed much extra labor on the teachers. It is hoped that the last forced promotion has been made, and that hereafter no pupil will be sent from this room until he is able to pass examination on the full, prescribed course of study.

The recitations have partaken fully as much of the Intermediate as of the Grammar school type, thus making a draft on the teacher for extra labor to perfect classes in studies that they should have completed elsewhere. We are satisfied that by no other means can so correct an estimate of the standing and progress of a school be made, as by written examinations, and we are pleased to note the fact that every successive set of papers returned from this room show more painstaking and care.

INTERMEDIATE.—MISS ELLEN MORRISON, MISS LAURA HAYNES,  
TEACHERS.

Without any question, oral teaching is of great value, especially in Primary schools, but it is doubted whether this system of instruction alone can with profit be carried into higher grades. However, beyond the Primary department it need not be wholly discontinued, but rather used as an adjunct to regular recitations. The difficulty is, that by this method no lesson is easier for the previous one, and as scholars are allowed cer-

tain latitude in their answers, they finally rely upon guessing out a recitation. These difficulties have been recognized in this department, and strong efforts have been made to rectify this tendency, but at the cost of tedious labor on the part of the teachers. Although the monthly reports have repeatedly called attention to the lack of studious habits on the part of the scholars, yet we think the results attained are all that could justly be expected, and reflect credit upon the careful and conscientious instructors.

PRIMARY.—MISS MARY MORRILL, TEACHER.

Year after year we have bestowed a just measure of praise upon varied and instructive exercises peculiar to this school, and in making our annual report we can but feel that success has again crowned the earnest efforts of the teacher. No one study has been hobbled, and alike in reading, spelling, arithmetic and geography has especial excellence been attained for a school of this grade. It is desirable that the low uncomfortable chairs be removed from this room, and their places filled with modern school furniture, thus enabling the elements of writing to be taught, as well as giving more comfort to the pupils during the hours of confinement that weigh so heavily upon young scholars.

MILLS SCHOOLS.

HIGH.—WM. L. MILLER, TEACHER.

This school is about closing a year of unexampled prosperity, and the care and ability with which it has been conducted is fully evidenced by the high state of discipline and scholarship exhibited by its members. The harmony and good feeling which have existed between teacher and pupils are sources of



sincere pleasure to the Committee, and have contributed in no small degree to the excellent results that have been attained. Among the many creditable features noticeable in the condition of this school, we would call attention to the marked increase of attendance over that of any former year. In this connection we would notice that almost the only marks of absence are against the names of pupils who can the least afford to lose a single day's tuition, a fact that must be very discouraging to the teacher. We regret that the name of Joseph Mason, which has appeared on our Roll of Honor and Grand Roll from time immemorial, cannot occupy its usual place, he being absent one day on account of sickness ; with this exception he has a clean record for four years—an example worthy of imitation.

Many of the pupils, as well as teacher, being possessed of a good musical education, the singing of this school has been a feature of striking excellence, and one that has afforded much pleasure to the numerous visitors.

Written examinations and numerous compositions being one of the required tasks, the cheerful and hearty manner in which the wishes of the Committee have been seconded by the pupils is a source of gratification. An essay covering twelve or fifteen closely written pages is a very commendable effort, and the teacher who is obliged to criticise and review such productions week after week, must necessarily consume some midnight oil. With a range of recitations extending from practical business arithmetic to trigonometry, from the elements of English grammar to Analysis, no visitor can go away feeling that his pet studies are neglected.

The senior class have voted to remain another year in school, in order to give plenty of time to the review and perfection of the full course of study, which is the best evidence of their appreciation of our efforts to give them a good practical education, and we venture to say that in no Academy in the State, can students derive greater advantages than in our own High Schools, if they will give this extra year.

In closing our remarks we would say that although the number of visitors has been greater than usual, still there are many parents and friends of education who are denying themselves a great pleasure by not visiting the Amesbury Mills High School.

GRAMMAR.—MR. GEROGE A. MOORE, TEACHER.

This school is arranged in two divisions, with a view to sending annually the first division to the High School after spending two years here. The general complaint has been irregular attendance and want of interest, which is discouraging to the faithful teacher who has the good of his school at heart. With the exception of these drawbacks, the school has been highly prosperous and deserves the warmest approval of all. The usual Grammar School branches have been taught, and the lucid and forcible illustrations have seemed sufficient to enable the dullest to understand. Grammar, usually a dry and far from interesting study, has been made attractive, and the marked attention during recitation may be considered strong proof of progress. If there has been any specialties we should be inclined to include penmanship in the list. The books have evidently been written with the greatest care, and a corresponding improvement is plainly shown. Arithmetic has by no means been lost sight of, but the prompt and correct manner of solving problems is the best proof of good understanding and well defined ideas concerning it.

The year to those who have been constant in their attendance has been a profitable one. The length of school was nine months, being one month more than last year. This will give a much needed opportunity for lengthened drill with the first class, preparatory to entering the High School.

INTERMEDIATE.—MISS ANNIE W. KELLEY, TEACHER.

At the spring term the school was arranged in two divisions

so that annually after spending two years here, the first class might be promoted to the Grammar School. It was believed this arrangement would save time and enable the teacher to work to better advantage in fitting her classes for promotion. And in looking back at the close of the year we are happy to say that we have not been disappointed in the result. There have been drawbacks to the success of the school which no foresight could prevent, numerous dismissals and irregular attendance, but notwithstanding, a good work has been accomplished. The ability of the teacher to illustrate the subject matter of the recitations by oral instructions, has imparted an interest to the exercises seldom found in the school-room. Simple objects have been used to illustrate and explain important principles, which have served to fix in the mind facts which otherwise would have remained obscure. Perhaps we may truthfully say that more persevering effort has been required than in almost any other school in town. Incessant action, continual talking from morning to night must necessitate a wear upon the system which nothing but a constitution of iron could withstand. Arithmetic has received special attention, and if the progress has not been rapid and thorough, it is no fault of the teacher. Hagar's Elementary Arithmetic has been used and with advantage to the school. It contains all that is required to enter the Grammar School, and by its simple and concise method is well fitted for intermediate drill. A geography lesson recited in the teacher's usual manner accompanied with such questions and illustrations as she has introduced, occupying but thirty minutes, has generally brought before the class an amount of information not to be found in many lessons of the text.

A judicious treatment of studies in this manner is what we most need, and partakes sufficiently of oral teaching to give lasting impressions and well-grounded ideas in the minds of the pupils. Spelling and other branches have been treated in the same faithful manner. Although to the teacher it has been



a hard year's work, yet good feeling seems to have prevailed, rendering the school pleasant to all. The closing examination was interesting and satisfactory.

FOURTH PRIMARY—MISS ADDIE SMITH, TEACHER.

If by judicious management pupils are led to overcome habits of idleness and disorder, and acquire a system of quiet application to study, there need be no hesitation in predicting good practical results for that school. It is not every person who is possessed of sufficient knowledge to pass an examination, that is enabled to teach understandingly. Hence, when we secured the services of a Normal School graduate to take charge of this room, we felt that we had a guarantee that a regular system of education would be followed, and at the close of the year we think that the results are all that we anticipated. Order has been evolved out of chaos, and a thorough analytical type of recitation established. The register indicates a decided increase in the number of visitors, and we hail it as an omen that parents are beginning to feel a little interest in our schools.

THIRD PRIMARY — MISS EMMA A DODGE, TEACHER.

It is a source of satisfaction to your committee to feel, that no more well disciplined, well organized and effective schools, have existed in this regard since their connection with the Board than those of the present year. The school under consideration is worthy of especial notice, as having made very marked improvement during its somewhat limited session. A goodly number of visitors were present at the closing examination, and gave evidence of their satisfaction, not only by their strict attention through the quite lengthy exercises, but by many commendatory remarks. It was evident that no lesson had been passed until it was completely

mastered. The tests in reading, spelling, and arithmetic, were alike indicative of thoroughness, while the very excellent specimens of writing upon *slates* shown, pointed to what the results might have been had the room been furnished with desks and other appliances for teaching this branch of study.

SECOND PRIMARY — MISS SOPHIA M. GRANVILLE, TEACHER.

More than usual interest has been found in this school in consequence of the judicious efforts of the teacher. Although suffering to some extent in common with others from irregular attendance, the work which was accomplished during the year is of no ordinary character. The discordant elements have been thoroughly subdued and brought into a complete state of subordination and cheerful obedience. More than this — earnest workers not a few, have appeared, which would be creditable to any school. The teacher has led and the flock have followed in the path that leads to knowledge. In repeating “twenty rules” for the school we have watched these happy faces, completely absorbed in the subject, while with almost perfect precision they went through with the exercise. Other exercises of a similar nature have been introduced, and by these simple yet winning methods the teacher has gained the confidence and even love of her pupils, which has enabled her to accomplish more than ordinary success. Having gained these strong points, for such they are as every successful teacher knows, the work became comparatively easy and the progress sure.

Reading, spelling, arithmetic and to some extent writing and drawing were taught, and in a very clear and intelligible manner. Especially have we been pleased with the reading exercises, for this is really the most important branch in a primary, and should be conducted with the greatest care. Careless habits formed here will require long drill to eradi-

cate in the higher schools, wasting precious time which will be needed for other purposes. The greatest care has been exercised in regard to proper expression and the pauses, thus ensuring a more easy task in the advanced schools.

Instead of careless and indifferent recitations we find a lively competition in the classes; some one always ready with an answer when a failure occurs.

A gentle emulation has been started, a small degree of pride aroused which has most decidedly increased the interest, for where there is no ambition there is no success.

More parents than usual have visited the school, showing an increasing interest, which betokens a brighter future.

FIRST PRIMARY.—MISS SUSIE W. MOULTON, TEACHER.

Many of the children came without books, their parents being unable to furnish them, and we were under the necessity of supplying them at the town's cost, or allow them to sit idle. The books are, however, retained at the school-room and will be of service next year. The small chairs without book-racks in this room are wholly unfit for the purpose designed, and ought to be replaced by modern furniture. The scholars must either sit upon their books or throw them on the floor to be defaced and quickly spoiled by the dirt, which is to some extent unavoidable, especially in muddy weather, and there is but little choice between the two evils. Either course does not tend to habits of neatness and economy which our schools are presumed to encourage. In other respects the children have been well cared for and have received faithful instruction. At the winter term sixty-three different scholars were in attendance, varying in age from five to twelve, and averaging about eight years. There are but five classes, and yet there is plenty of work to occupy the time. It is a careful work and slow, to impart fitting instruction to those tender minds, leading them on step by step without detriment to either mental or physical ca-



pacities, and requires of the teacher other and higher qualifications than those purely of a literary nature. To form correct habits of thought, to teach morality and manners are duties which rest with the teacher to a large degree and make the office one of great responsibility. In this instance we believe the trust has been exercised with care and a due regard to the welfare of the school. The discipline has been appropriate, and while perfect stillness has not been insisted upon, active confusion has not been allowed to the injury of the school. Seldom has the teacher resorted to corporal punishment, but has led the pupils into orderly habits by more gentle and effectual means. The few studies have received careful attention and the teacher has labored earnestly and successfully to fit her charge for a higher grade school.

INFANT PRIMARY.—MISS CAROLYN O. SPOFFORD, MISS ANNIE KENISTON, TEACHERS.

Good order, and varied, pleasing methods of instruction have made this school appear quite attractive to the casual visitor, but upon more careful investigation we find that irregular attendance has been quite a serious evil, and what is worse we find that much of the absence is occasioned by sickness directly attributable to the foul, vitiated air in this place so wholly unfit for school purposes.

Two estimable teachers have paid the penalty of their sojourn here by serious illness, and how many children have suffered from the same cause we know not, but we feel that it is high time to make some move in the matter of furnishing better accommodations for our lower grade schools in this yard.

FRIEND STREET INTERMEDIATE—MISS S. J. SHACKFORD, MISS ELIZABETH R. GRAVES, MISS M. P. EASTMAN, TEACHERS.

Frequent change in teachers is a matter that so seriously

interferes with the progress and general well being of a school, that it is to be greatly deprecated. Hence, your committee, when they were enabled to secure the services, *for the year*, of the teacher whose well earned reputation was a guarantee of thorough, conscientious work, felt that they were exceedingly fortunate, and when a neighboring city by the offer of compensation far exceeding any sum at their disposal, called her to another field of labor, they felt keenly the disadvantage of trying to compete with surrounding towns where more liberal appropriations are made.

Almost any one who is called to fill the place of a much loved and thoroughly successful teacher, will find that they are heritors of a thorny crown, and it requires a delicate hand to remove those thorns without leaving a sting behind. Generally speaking, parents, scholars and teachers, are all sinners when there is any difficulty in the management of a school, and it is to be presumed that there was no exception to this rule in the three months succeeding the summer vacation.

The closing examination was very satisfactory. The scholarship and deportment of the pupils, gave evidence that the seven weeks prior to the end of the term were devoted to diligent study under the direction of a competent and hard working teacher. The class that will go from this room to the next in grade at the commencement of the coming school year, are well qualified and are possessed of marked ability.

FRIEND STREET PRIMARY.—MISS E. C. SHACKFORD, MISS ANNIE D. MOULTON, TEACHERS.

This school has been somewhat crowded during the year, but notwithstanding the number of pupils the order has been good and the progress gratifying to all interested in its welfare.

A Primary teacher is called upon to exercise no little pa-

tience and perseverance, as day after day the same truths are to be repeated till childhood's sluggish memory retains the thought. What boys and girls learn from contact with things around them is retained with little effort, but abstract ideas are grasped only by minds cultivated to some degree. So the teacher who is called to cast seed in the fallow fields of mind, must be content to do hard work and exercise watchful care ere a harvest can be expected. Such labor has been done in this room, and gratifying results have rewarded the endeavor.

## WEST AMESBURY SCHOOLS.

HIGH.—MR. FRANK WIGGIN, TEACHER.

The attendance has been large, averaging 56 for the Summer term and 53 for the Winter. The sudden appearance of scarlet fever in one of the lower schools interrupted the exercises for a short time in May. With a large school and numerous studies it may well be imagined that the duties of the teacher are no easy task. The work has, however, been so well arranged that of the eighteen classes twelve are daily heard, and their recitations, though occupying less time than should be devoted to them, are thorough, and designed to make clear the principles and leading ideas of the lessons. Among the studies of the year have been found Astronomy, Chemistry, Natural History, Rhetoric, Geometry, Physiology, Philosophy, Botany, Ancient History, Book-keeping and Latin. The ordinary and most practical branches have not failed to receive proper attention. Test questions in Arithmetic have answered a good purpose in calling out the practical knowledge of the pupils. Some fine specimens of advanced Drawing were examined, which showed a natural bent for the art. The outlines and shading in archi-



itecture, scenery and portraiture were neatly executed and were a very close imitation of the original.

There are two classes in Latin, one of which is reading Cæsar. A class in Natural History are very much interested in the study, and are making very good progress. Other classes are doing equally well, but space will hardly permit us to name all of the particulars in relation to the good work which might be interesting and desirable.

The whole is in charge of a competent teacher, one whose ability and willingness to work nobody will be disposed to question. The classification is the best that circumstances would permit, and the cheerful work of the pupils, accompanied by the faithful and appropriate instructions of the teacher, can but produce the best of results. Apparatus has been obtained by the efforts of the teacher and school, consisting in part of a valuable instrument designed to illustrate the motions of the Solar System. Also the entire work of Chamber's Encyclopedia, which places within the reach of the school a very valuable source of information not usually accessible to our schools. A small cabinet of minerals has been collected which will serve as a nucleus for future collections, enabling the teacher to more fully illustrate the studies of Mineralogy and Geology.

GRAMMAR.—MISS LINDA E. LADD, TEACHER.

For several reasons, satisfactory to the Committee, it was thought best to transfer the first class of this school, at the commencement of the year, to the High School, although by so doing both schools have been somewhat out of proportion in regard to numbers. The progress of the school, although affected during the Spring term by the prevalence of scarlet fever which interrupted the school two weeks, has in the main been excellent. Grammar has been most thorough-

ly and efficiently taught, without the use of text books by teacher or scholars. Writing has received much attention, the whole class being sent to the blackboard and making and explaining every principle that is employed in this useful art. Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar have been made more practical by introducing much matter not found in the books, nor has the teacher confined herself to the text book in conducting the recitations in these branches. Reading Spelling and Writing have received due attention, and singing has been practised to a greater extent than usual. The teacher having had a Normal training in the Farmington, Me. Normal School, has introduced many valuable and improved methods of instruction and the year has been one of more than ordinary prosperity.

There has been a large number of visitors during the year, and at the closing examination more than ninety parents and friends were present. Both the written and public examinations were highly creditable to teacher and scholars, and clearly demonstrated the thoroughness of the teacher's work.

Miss Ladd came to us an entire stranger in the Spring, but has well earned the title of a successful teacher.

#### INTERMEDIATE.—MISS CLARA E CLIFFORD, TEACHER.

The average age of scholars in this interesting school is ten years, the number is about forty, and the classification is very nearly perfect. Such a school requires a thoroughly trained teacher, a Normal graduate, or one whose experience, aptitude and love for her vocation, are fully equivalent to a Normal training. The teacher for the past year has labored very faithfully, and by her earnest endeavors has in a great part made up for that special training and preparation, which the perfectly successful teacher must have. She has had in a marked degree the love and esteem of her scholars, and the discipline of the school has been entirely satisfactory.

The progress in studies has been fair, though at times we have thought that a little more animation in the various classes would have tended to better results, yet we cheerfully accord the teacher the credit of having taught a good school, and having given very general satisfaction. Drawing and writing have received a large share of attention, and good results attained. Declamations have been required of all the scholars once a fortnight, and we would favorably commend this exercise to the attention of parents as important and desirable to be introduced into all the schools.

PRIMARY — MISS ANNA E. EDWARDS, TEACHER.

The spring term was interrupted by the prevalence of scarlet fever, the school remaining closed one month.

In the brief period of a week, three bright scholars, members of the same class, died, thus casting a gloom over the remainder of the term, which nothing could dissipate. The school has averaged about fifty scholars of suitable age, and for a part of the time three or four under five years have attended, the teacher having been informed that she could send them home at any time, if she chose to do so.

Kindness has been the controlling force, as it most certainly should be in a primary school, and under its influence the little people have been happy and contented in their school life, and have rendered a prompt and cheerful obedience at all times.

The winter term has been very successful and sufficiently rapid progress made. The classes in arithmetic, geography and spelling, deserve special mention for their proficiency.

It requires infinite patience, skill, perseverance and will, to teach successfully a primary school, and the teacher must not only love children, but love her vocation, and then if she could have special preparations at a training school for her great



work, we should have results that would astonish us even in this initiatory period of school life.

The town might almost afford to foot the bills of such among her teachers as possess all the qualifications but the last named. at some first class training school, or if it cannot afford that, it can and should afford to hire the best skill and labor that can possibly be procured for the primary schools, for in no schools are all the qualities that make up the true teacher, more indispensable.

## SOUTH AMESBURY SCHOOLS.

HIGH — MR. WILLET L. TITUS, TEACHER.

A fine class of four graduated from this school at the close of the spring term; namely: Ida F. Sawyer, Nora M. Stevens, Ernest B. Eaton, Austin W. Sawyer.

The class had gone somewhat farther in Latin than preceding graduates, and had completed the prescribed course in a very creditable manner. The graduating exercises held in the Baptist church, kindly opened for the occasion, were of a high order and reflected great credit on all who took part in them.

The year has been one of uniform advancement and prosperity, all studies pursued having received due attention and thorough treatment, but the sciences of Botany, Geology and Chemistry have received especial attention, owing in part to the natural bent of the teacher in the direction of those branches.

Mr. Titus, during the summer vacation, joined the Harvard school of Geology, spending several weeks in the vicinity of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, and bringing home with him many valuable specimens, which, with many others, collected by the scholars, have been arranged systematically

and properly labelled, forming a valuable cabinet of Geological specimens.

Miss Florence Carleton, one of the pupils, collected during the summer about three hundred and fifty specimens of insects, and presented them to the school. We hope the good work of forming cabinets to illustrate these important branches of natural science, so well begun, will be carried forward vigorously. Chemistry has been pursued on right principles, the pupils demonstrating every step by actual experiments.

The teacher's methods in Arithmetic and Algebra are calculated to make clear and plain to the apprehension of average minds the principles of those sciences; while we thus select some of the higher branches, as having received special attention, we do not wish it to be inferred that the lower branches have been neglected.

Spelling has received the attention its importance demands; drawing, writing and reading have been attended to and fair progress made, and teachers, parents and scholars can look back on the school year now closing, as a very successful and prosperous year.

The school will close with a public examination about the seventh of March.

#### GRAMMAR — MISS NELLIE F. WORTHEN, TEACHER.

For several years the present faithful teacher has labored here giving very general satisfaction. This is a small, but pleasant school. The attendance was not so good at the Fall term as we could wish, owing mostly to sickness. A small class was sent to the High school at the beginning of the Fall term, and its place supplied from the Primary. A class was formed in Kerl's Shorter Course Grammar, and have made a good beginning. In arithmetic the classes have been steadily progressing and appear to understand their

work. Writing and Drawing have each received proper attention, and commendable improvement was noticed. Some fine sketches of crayon drawing were put upon the blackboards, which showed good taste. The discipline may not have been of the strictest kind, but it has nevertheless been sufficient to allow of a large amount of useful work and a good degree of improvement. The teacher has evidently spared no pains necessary for the onward progress of the work, and a good school has been the result. The best wishes of parents, if we may judge by the large number of visitors present at the closing examination, have been with the school. The old stove, never large enough to warm the room in severe weather, has been repaired and set up in another school, and a larger one supplied here.

PRIMARY —MRS. MARY A. TUSON, TEACHER.

A large amount of patience is required to manage successfully half a hundred of small children, full of life and always ready for fun and frolic. But the task is more difficult when older ones are mixed with them, requiring a much larger number of studies. Mrs. Tuson has by her mild and motherly government for many years given very general satisfaction, and what is of more importance, advanced her classes sufficiently to bear a favorable comparison with other schools of like grade. It is possible that we have had more quiet schools, but the best test is the amount of knowledge acquired at equal ages, and there is no fear for this school in a comparison of that kind. The studies are numerous and varied, owing to the fact that those who attend range from five to thirteen years of age. A class have completed the Primary Geography, and the first class in Mental Arithmetic have advanced to the ninety-first page. The first class in spelling have been to the sixty-seventh page in the Speller. Writing is practised both by pen and pencil, on the writing book, slate and blackboard. The



pencil is first used in No. 1, and having completed the book the pen is taken in the same number.

At the Fall term a class was sent to the Grammar school to make room for those about to enter. Some fourteen new scholars were admitted during the term, more than filling the vacant places. Reading is one of the principal exercises and has attained a good degree of proficiency. The earnest efforts of the teacher have been well rewarded in the substantial improvement of the school. The closing examination was well attended by parents, and we doubt not that teacher and school have their sympathy and confidence.

## BEAR HILL.

MISS SUSIE L. BROWN, TEACHER.

For nearly three years this school has been under the direction of the same excellent teacher, and the progress has been uniformly upward and onward. With a school numbering nearly fifty scholars, varying in age from five to sixteen, the teacher has evoked order out of chaos, and brought the standard of the school up to that of any of the Grammar schools in town. One thing is worthy of special notice and commendation: the invariable politeness and respectful bearing of every scholar connected with the school.

The past year has been one of prosperity in every respect, and it is sufficient to say that parents have felt perfectly confident that their children under this thoroughly competent teacher were having that care, attention and training, practically, for which, theoretically, they pay taxes for the support of schools. The closing examination was very fine, and must have been exceedingly gratifying to the large number of parents and friends present.

The reading in this school is remarkable, and is all the more

commendable because good reading, sad as the fact may be, is rarer in the schools now than formerly. The love and respect of the scholars towards their teacher was shown by some exquisite presents placed on her desk on the morning of examination day, valued more for the feeling which actuated the givers than for the cost of the gifts.

### LION'S MOUTH.

MISS ALBERTIE K. WINSLOW. TEACHER.

In our last report this school was said to be "the smallest school in town," having but eight scholars. A change in the right direction has taken place, increasing the number to nineteen, which has tended to make this an interesting school. The pupils range in age from five to seventeen, but the studies are confined to the elementary branches mostly. All seemed interested in their studies and were evidently anxious to accomplish as much as possible in the short time allotted them for study. In regard to the number of visitors, few schools will compare with this. It seems to have been held in high estimation, if the fact that seventy-two persons were present as visitors in course of the year, may be considered good evidence. A good year's work was accomplished, and the school closed in good condition.

### PLEASANT VALLEY.

CARRIE F. WORTHEN, TEACHER.

The attendance has been some larger than last year, while the studies have remained nearly the same. The first class in Arithmetic have only advanced to United States Money, and in Grammar but little has been done. Commendable effort was

made to improve the reading, which is the most important branch, and should take front rank in the lower schools. The attendance was irregular at the Fall term, indicating to some extent a loss of interest very much to be regretted. Some of the oldest scholars would no doubt have made greater improvement had their minds been fixed more firmly on their studies, and less time lost in play. Most of the scholars are of the Primary order, requiring only the elementary studies, and these have been well taught. The teacher labored to make the school pleasant and successful, introducing music, and to a good degree succeeded in the effort. The examination was interesting and satisfactory.

## POND HILLS.

MISS ANNA M. GUNNISON, TEACHER.

This school has been under the same instructor as last year, and the general conduct and progress of the school have been very satisfactory. The teacher has a very pleasing and effective method of imparting knowledge, discarding to a great extent, the text book, and by judicious questioning exciting thought and interest on the part of the scholars.

The number of scholars has been larger than for several years, and interest in the studies has been increased correspondingly, for in very small schools or classes the interest is apt to flag.

A rigid discipline is not necessary, perhaps, in the small schools, yet I think that parents and teachers will agree that quietness, courtesy, industry and prompt obedience are habits to be attained in school life, and should be cultivated and insisted on in small as well as large schools.

Our small schools furnish a most excellent opportunity for our graduates, and if they would a little more fully appreciate the situation, they as well as the town would be gainers thereby.



## BIRCH MEADOW.

MISS HATTIE E. SARGENT, TEACHER.

Under the same teacher, who taught so satisfactorily last year, this school has made most excellent progress. The discipline and everything connected with the school has been perfectly satisfactory, and the teacher, by introducing judicious matter aside from the text books, and adopting various expedients to interest her scholars and bring out thought, has shown that she possesses many qualities absolutely essential in the successful teacher.

The number of scholars has been larger than for several years, and the average attendance very good. Parents and friends have aided and cheered the teacher, and encouraged the scholars by their frequent visits during the year, and the lively interest they have shown in everything connected with the school. The closing examination was very fine, showing to those present that thoroughness, promptness and politeness had been cultivated and insisted upon by this promising young teacher.

## HIGHLANDS.

MISS MARIA G. SMILEY, TEACHER.

The teacher labored faithfully and earnestly to interest her scholars, and make school pleasant to them, and with a fair share of success; but perhaps greater progress would have been made if scholars had been more punctual, and parents had manifested a little more sympathy with the teacher and her work. The school is not so far advanced as the other small schools in town, and the reasons for this backwardness are not entirely creditable to the school.

There has been a slight increase in numbers over former years, and the progress, general management, and discipline of the school in the main satisfactory.

A little more ambition on the part of some of the older scholars, would be very commendable, and we hope parents will promptly second any efforts for raising the standard of the school.

## LANDING.

MISS NELLIE M. FOWLER, TEACHER.

The year has been one of prosperity, and the progress in study, and the general management of the school, have been eminently satisfactory. The number of scholars have not varied materially for several years, averaging about fifteen. Good order has been maintained by kind measures, and interest in studies awakened by original methods; and we have always found the school quietly performing its work, and teacher and scholars apparently cheerful and happy in their respective duties.

Three scholars from this school were admitted to the River High school at the close of the winter term, and we would say that in the number of scholars promoted to the High school, the Landing stands higher than some other out-lying districts having an equal number of scholars.

## POND.

MISS SARAH A. MORRILL, TEACHER.

The attendance has been somewhat irregular showing to some extent a want of interest in the school. Kept at a considerable expense for the benefit of a few, the school ought to receive the warmest support of the parents, and punctual attendance thus secured. But few studies have been pursued as those attending require none but the elementary branches. The school was quiet and orderly and considerable improvement was made. The house will need some repairs the coming year.

Most respectfully submitted,

JOS. MERRILL,	}	Committee
FRANK WIGGIN,		
H. G. LESLIE,		

## ROLL OF HONOR.

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This roll contains the names of those who have not been late  
or absent during the year.

### *MILLS.*

Mary Huntington,  
George Clough,  
George Horner,  
Ralph E. Clarkson,  
Willard P. Boyd,  
John Rowell,

Harry C. Austin,  
John Kelley,  
Patrick Fagan,  
Charles Schofield,  
Clarence Little,  
Richard E. Briggs,

George E. Hodge.

### *WEST AMESBURY.*

Henry Little,

Zenas Lovell.

### *FERRY.*

Eugene L. Gale,  
Herman Balch,

Frank Blaisdell,  
Fred E. Gale.

### *SOUTH AMESBURY.*

Jennie Tuckwell,

Alice V. Carleton.

### *LANDING.*

Mattie Hughes,

Nellie Allison.

### *LION'S MOUTH.*

Ida F. Barnard,

Edwin R. Coombs.

### *HIGHLANDS.*

Nellie J. Colby.

### *POND HILLS.*

Abbie F. Wood,

Nellie Osborne.



## GRAND ROLL.

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This roll contains the names of scholars who have not been late or absent during the last two or three years.

### *FERRY.*

Arthur Cunningham,  
George Blaisdell,  
Arthur I. Balch,

Mary Cunningham,  
Sarah J. Wadleigh,  
Thomas A. Cook

Maggie E. Foley.

### *MILLS.*

Willie Sargent.

### *WEST AMESBURY.*

Etta Colby.

### *SOUTH AMESBURY.*

Herbert F. Chase.

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## LIST OF GRADUATES.

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Sarah A. Morrill,  
Ida F. Balch,  
Fannie Huntington,  
Fannie M. Binney,  
Nora M. Stevens,

Thomas M. Huntington,  
Charles Long,  
Ernest B. Eaton,  
Austin W. Sawyer,  
Ida F. Sawyer.

## TABLE No. 1.

## STATISTICS OF SUMMER SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.	Number of Scholars.	Av'ge No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.	No. Days in Term.	No. Days Attendance.	No. Days Absence.	No. Times Late.	No. Scholars over 15.	No. Scholars under 5	Number of Visitors.	Teachers wages per mo.
Ferry High,	26	24	23	.96	60	1446	58		7		77	\$105 26
Ferry Grammar,	40	38	36	.94	60	2265	135	51	1		11	35
Ferry Intermediate,	44	42	38	.90	60	2324	226	157			70	30
Ferry Primary,	46	46	44	.91	60	2634	114		-		15	30
Mills High,	34	33	32	.97	60	1899	89	5	19		16	105 26
Mills Grammar,	33	30	27	.90	60	1645	118	9	3		27	60
Mills Intermediate,	46	42	37	.88	60	2263	316	62			17	30
Mills 4th Primary,	52	47	42	.89	60	2485	635	60			2	30
Mills 3d Primary,	52	43	42	.97	60	2552	568	63			12	30
Mills 2d Primary,	60	51	50	.97	60	3025	575	47			10	30
Mills 1st Primary,	60	59	47	.80	58	2739	740	54			17	30
Infant Primary,	68	62	48	.77	58	2543	709	48			7	30
*Friend Street Intermediate.	33											
Friend Street Primary,	60	52	47	.90	58	2759	257	37			22	30
West Amesbury High School,	62	59	56	.95	60	3345	375	35	27		13	105 26
West Amesbury Grammar,	24	22	19	.86	55	1020	174	29			14	40
West Amesbury Intermediate,	38	32	31	.97	50	1583	225	10			10	30
West Amesbury Primary,	44	38	32	.84	40	1262	498	33		1	6	30
South Amesbury High School,	25	23	22	.96	58	1214	211	8	14		26	105 26
South Amesbury Grammar,	22	22	19	.86	58	1129	99	18			16	35
South Amesbury Primary,	48	46	40	.87	58	2426	344	54			15	30
Bear Hill,	46	42	38	.90	60	2280	480	40			19	40
Lion's Mouth,	12	12	11	.92	60	659	31				38	22
Pleasant Valley,	15	13	12	.92	60	720	75	11	1		29	22
Pond Hills,	19	18	16	.90	60	980	160	109	1	1	8	22
Birch Meadow,	13	10	9	.90	60	507	93	34	1	1	19	22
Highlands,	8	8	7	.87	60	386	94	18			13	22
Landing,	15	15	14	.93	60	813	87	46			19	22
Pond,	8	7	6	.86	60	352	96	18			18	22

\*Register not Returned.



## TABLE No. 2.

## STATISTICS OF WINTER SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.	Number of Scholars.	Av'ge No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	No. Days in Term.	No. Days Attendance.	No. Days Absence.	No. Times Late.	No. Scholars over 15.	No. Scholars under 5.	Number of Visitors.	Teachers wages per mo.
Ferry High,	23	22	21	.95	130	2776	132	2	8		103	\$105 26
Ferry Grammar,	38	36	32	.89	100	3553	247	59	2		28	35
Ferry Intermediate,	44	42	36	.86	95	3409	571	103			20	30
Ferry Primary,	56	46	45	.97	95	4637	250				75	30
Mills High,	33	32	31	.97	130	3721	106	12	19		84	105 26
Mills Grammar,	32	28	24	.85	120	2931	329		2		26	60
Mills Intermediate,	36	34	31	.91	95	2901	519	42			33	30
Mills 4th Primary,	41	39	34	.86	95	3332	638	67			25	30
Mills 3d Primary,	44	37	36	.97	95	3316	732	59			43	30
Mills 2d Primary,	58	47	46	.97	95	4337	223	46			46	30
Mills 1st Primary,	63	57	43	.75	92	3950	1294	33			32	30
Infant Primary,	70	58	43	.75	89	3567	1345	39			10	30
*Friend St. Intermediate,	33											
Friend Street Primary,	57	49	44	.94	92	4036	472	60			80	30
West Amesbury High,	57	55	53	.96	130	6874	536	89	22		31	105 26
W. Amesbury Grammar,	24	23	20	.87	98	1965	287	28			80	40
W. Amesbury Int.	36	34	33	.97	90	2980	80	4			93	30
West Amesbury Primary,	59	51	46	.90	115	5244	622	91		2	40	30
South Amesbury High,	28	25	24	.96	128	1757	193	33	17		66	105 26
So. Amesbury Grammar,	26	25	21	.84	93	1960	288	44			87	35
So. Amesbury Primary,	51	43	39	.91	94	3659	462	37			53	30
Bear Hill,	47	40	32	.80	95	3072	384	40	1		41	40
Lion's Mouth,	19	17	15	.88	70	1110	86	2	1	1	34	22
Pleasant Valley,	19	17	15	.88	70	1074	112	23	2		16	22
Pond Hills,	19	18	16	.90	70	1183	196	228	1	1	18	22
Birch Meadow,	12	10	9	.90	70	634	66	46		1	22	22
Highlands,	16	15	13	.87	70	932	188	22			22	22
Landing,	15	14	12	.86	70	877	103	43	2		23	22
Pond.	8	6	5	.83	63	325	146	10			17	22

\*Register not Returned.





